The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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He makes no friends who never made a foe.—Tennyson.

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JAIL OR NON-UNION WORK IS FEDERAL COURT EDICT

New York, Oct. 8.—Federal Judge Grubb has perpetually enjoined stone cutters in the metropolitan area from refusing to work on non-union stone. This area is 2,500 square miles and includes 10,000,000 people in this city and suburbs.

The injunction is based on the United States Supreme Court's decision (April 11, 1927) in the Bedford (Indiana) stone case that prohibits organized stone cutters from refusing to handle non-union stone. In that case Associate Justice Brandeis registered strong dissent. He reminded his colleagues that they twisted the Sherman Anti-Trust Act to the advantage of the steel trust and the shoe machinery trust, but deny workers "the right to cooperate in simply refraining from work, when that course was the only means of self-protection against a combination of militant and powerful employers."

The Grubb injunction differs from the Bedford case in that the present proceedings were initiated by the government through the Federal Department of Justice, and not by private corporations.

The government alleged interference with stone manufactured by three companies which employed 300 non-union workers. The organized stone cutters refused to handle this product and the government took up the employers' fight to enforce lower conditions. Violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act was alleged.

The Grubb injunction leaves the Journeymen Stone Cutters liable for damages on behalf of any concern that claims "interference"—refusal by the unionists to handle its product—within the past 10 years. The Sherman Act provides that the Grubb decree is prima facie evidence of damages and when damages are assessed by a jury they must be trebled. The injunction means that the stone cutters must lower their living standards by working on non-union stone and that under the law the union and individual members are liable for three-fold damages wherever they have been found guilty of such "interference" within the past decade. The statute also provides for criminal prosecution, and in this case six of the defendants, including Michael W. Mitchell, international president, are under indictment and are awaiting trial.

NO MAN CAN STAND ALONE

By MERLE THORPE

Editor "Nation's Business," Published by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States

There are many who profit from the work of their organizations, yet who glibly disavow any interest in group endeavor. Their interest changes from apathy to antipathy. They "haven't time," or they "make a contribution," or declare that they'll have nothing to do with an organization "which is run by a clique."

They are the unwitting economic "throwbacks," freaks who have sloughed off generations of development and reverted to form. They become selfish members of a community or trade, suspicious of each other, as it was in the beginning of things.

Such men lose materially and spiritually.

Set this down as gospel: The work of the world today is being done by groups.

The individual, no matter how strong as an individual, is weak without the strength of his group. And the beauty of American organization is that individuality is stimulated, not suppressed.

Roosevelt declared truly that every man owes something to his trade or profession—not a dole in the form of dues, but his best thought and inspiration. And Kipling, about the same time, viewing us and his own people with the eyes of a seer and prophet, remarked that the hope of the nation lay in "the everlasting teamwork of every bloomin' soul."

Mavericks in business are picturesque but abnormal. Biologists classify throwbacks as freaks.

In this world of modern business with its complexities no man can stand alone.

CAUTION IS URGED IN STARTING BANKS

Los Angeles, Oct. 8.—The indiscriminate establishment of labor banks does not impress the A. F. of L. Executive Council, which raises a warning note against this practice in its annual report to the A. F. of L. convention.

"In our judgment," the report states, "the time has come to stop expansion in the field of labor banking until experience with those labor banks already organized shall have been critically studied and evaluated. It is unwise to experiment further until we know exactly what policies are safe and dependable.

Attention is called to the possible manipulation of banks through holding companies and the payment of large commissions to these companies for their services.

"Where holding companies are organized the ownership of stock of the bank becomes secondary to the stock of the holding company," the council says. "Subsidiary organizations have been used to make possible financial policies prohibited by sound banking rules.

"Since the recent development in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' financial activities, more and more attention is being directed to the manner in which labor banks are being financed and conducted. Each failure, indeed each difficulty in which a labor bank is placed, subjects the remaining labor banks to careful scrutiny of their policies and activities."

EASTERN RAILROAD JOINS SHARK WAR

New York, Oct. 8.—The New York Central Railroad has joined the war against loan sharks. The railroad has issued an order instructing its paymasters to refuse to honor assignments which prove to be loans at usurious interest.

"In the future," said William Mann, assistant attorney general of the railroad, "we shall investigate all salary assignments presented to us for payment. If we find that they have been obtained by loan sharks charging our employes usurious interest rates for loans we shall refuse to honor them."

11,000 MILLIONAIRES

Washington, Oct. 8.—There are 11,000 millionaires in this country, according to Joseph H. McCoy, government actuary, who makes returns for estimates for Congress.

Members of the House and Senate are afraid to ignore the McCoy estimates. In 1918 he estimated that the yield from the excess profits tax would be $2,500,000,000. The actual returns were $2,505,566,939.

STRIKING PICTURE MEN BARRED FROM TALKING

Baltimore, Oct. 8.—Moving picture operators are in the fifth week of a wage strike.

Their wage demand, which ranges from 53 cents to $1 a week, is not the reason for the fight, according to the unionists, who claim that destruction of neighborhood theaters is the combine's objective.

An injunction prohibits the strikers from mentioning the names of hostile theaters. They can not ask for the removal of Harry Custer, leading opponent of the picture operators and who was appointed by governor Ritchie as a member of the state board for examining applicants for positions as moving picture operators.

"The smaller theater owners are deluded into the belief that they are fighting for themselves, whereas they are supporting a league that eventually will weed out neighborhood houses and establish the chain theater," says the Baltimore Federationist, published by the Baltimore Federation of Labor.

LAW SUITS EXPENSIVE; WILL USE ARBITRATION

New York, Oct. 8.—Arbitration rather than law suits in civil cases is recommended to its members by the Automobile Merchants' Association of this city.

If disputants agree to this method they select arbitrators from the American Arbitration Association's National Panel and submit the issue to them. This panel consists of more than 500 business and professional men, many of whom have special knowledge of the auto industry.

Once the matter has been voluntarily submitted to arbitration the umpire's decision has all the validity of a decision in the Federal courts where the sum involved exceeds $3,000, and also under the laws of New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Oregon, California and Pennsylvania.

Gun Men Are Deputized By State; Paid and Controlled By Employers

Los Angeles, Oct. 8.—Deputising by the State of Pennsylvania of coal and iron police, selected by coal owners, aroused the A. F. of L. convention, following a special report on this subject by the Executive Council.

The report recommended that a conference of trade union representatives assemble at Pittsburgh on November 15 "for the purpose of taking this misuse of government and to aid the miners in their wage contest against intrenched industrial, financial and political powers.

"One of the most reprehensible developments in this State," says the report, "is the action of Pennsylvania political powers who promiscuously issue commissions to coal and iron police who are paid for their services by the coal corporations. These employes are thus authorized to arrest miners at will."

The gun men have a free hand in their terrorizing campaign. Miners are evicted from their homes, and coercion and intimidation are applied. Civic and social activities of the miners and their families are interfered with, injunctions issued and picketing denied.

The executive council called attention to the courage of miners on strike in western and central Pennsylvania as well as in other sections of the country.

"Many of the bituminous coal fields have, for years, been industrial battlefields upon which the lives and fortunes of thousands of miners and their families are determined," it is stated. "Alternating experiences of success and failure, the miners have fought for higher wages, better work conditions and improved living standards. Only men who possess courage and a conquerable spirit can repeatedly engage in such gruelling contests."

The Pittsburgh Coal Company, which broke its union agreement, is leading the fight against the miners in the Pittsburgh district. The Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation, also a contract-violating corporation, is another leading trade union foe.

DICTATORS NEVER VOLUNTARILY QUIT

Count Ignazio T. di Revel, Italian citizen and president of the Fascisti League of North America, has returned to this country from his conference with Mussolini.

The count is recognized as Mussolini's spokesman in the United States. He acknowledges that Italy is under a dictator and that newspapers are suppressed, but this, he says, will not be necessary "once the co-operative state is established."

The count's idea of a "co-operative state" is to destroy trade unions, set up government controlled labor organizations, make strikes a penal offense and enforce compulsory arbitration.

The count would create the impression that the Italian dictator will eventually surrender his power. This is contrary to history.

German Socialists, who have talked of a "temporary dictator during the transitory period" have abandoned this theory, according to a writer in the Socialist Review (London), who discusses the recent congress of the German Socialist party at Kiel. The writer says that "after years of humiliation and ignominious futility," the German Socialists have abandoned their theory of "temporary dictators" and that they now declare "the democratic principle and respect for individual liberty must at all costs be revived and reasserted." Russia is responsible for the changed viewpoint, as the writer says:

"In Russia the dictatorship and the terror have lasted for nearly ten years and show no signs of abating. Once they have begun, no matter in what country, no man or group or party, can determine when they shall cease. They who began a dictatorship must be held responsible if it never stops. To exercise a 'temporary' or 'transitional' terror is like waging a "temporary" war."

HISTORY AGAIN REPEATS

Press cables from Moscow announce that Leon Trotsky has been expelled from the Central Committee of the Communist Internationale.

He criticised methods in the campaign to control the world's organized workers, it is charged. He favors dictatorship, also, but he wants to be "it." He says Joseph Stalin, present head of the committee, is a "Bonapartist dictator."

That's what Stalin called Trotsky when the latter was in control. Trotsky's expulsion is logical.

Autocracy will not tolerate a rival. When dictators clash, one must go down. Today it is Trotsky. Tomorrow is his successful foe.

Believers in popular rule are not interested in the checkerboard moves of these autocrats, except to point out that history again repeats.

Miners Are Injunction Victims In New Use Of This Court Writ

Pittsburgh, Pa., Oct. 8.—Federal Judge Schoonmaker has enjoined the National Surety Company from posting bonds for evicted miners who occupy houses owned by the anti-union Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation.

Where the company has attempted to oust the miners, these workers secure a bond furnished by the surety company and appeal the case. This checks the eviction program, and the company has been granted an injunction against the surety company, which will hereafter be in contempt of court if it follows a recognized practice in law.

This unusual use of the injunction in labor disputes was followed by Judge Schoonmaker's order that any interference with the mining of coal that is intended for interstate commerce can be enjoined. Heretofore it has been held that the mining of coal does not come under the interstate commerce clause.

Even if the complaining company failed to claim there was any intention to interfere with interstate commerce, the court indicated his willingness to supply the oversight.,

"Such an intention might be inferred," he said, "as a result of the preventing of such an enormous quantity of coal from going into interstate commerce through the stoppage of production."

The clear purpose of the court is to check any interference with the production of coal, though the interference is incidental to the exercise of legal rights of the workers and the bonding company.

The coal company recently broke its agreement with the United Mine Workers and is attempting to operate on the non-union basis.

UNORGANIZED WAGES BELOW LIVING LINE

Los Angeles, Oct. 8.—"We regret the impression carried abroad by some reporters and commissions that high wages prevail generally," says the A. F. of L. executive council in its report to the forty-seventh annual convention.

"There are thousands of unorganized working for wages that are far below wages necessary to maintain American standards of living," the council states.

"There are unskilled and unorganized workers receiving less than is necessary to maintain decent standards of living. The unions would gladly help these workers and we invite them to join our ranks for higher wages and shorter hours."

STRIKERS ENJOINED

New Bedford, Mass, Oct. 8.—Superior Court Judge Joseph Welsh enjoined striking musicians, stage employes and picture operators from picketing.

The managers insist on a wage that is lower than in near-by cities. They have discovered that the contract they are asked to sign is "illegal." They accepted this contract for 15 years.

DEPARTMENTS ELECT

Los Angeles, Oct. 8.—President O'Connell was re-elected president of the Metal Trades Department, A. F. of L., at the annual convention. John P. Frey, former editor of the International Molders' Journal, was elected secretary-treasurer. He was recently selected by the department's executive board to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Secretary-Treasurer Berres.

The Building Trades Department elected William J. Spencer secretary-treasurer. He succeeds William J. Tracy, deceased. President McSorley's term does not expire until next year.

The Union Label Trades Department re-elected President Hays and Secretary-Treasurer Manning.

URGE ARBITRATION

Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 8.—Officers of the Iowa Federation of Labor ask Governor Hammill to appoint a board of arbitration and conciliation in the dispute between auto mechanics and garage owners. The law gives the Governor this power.

The employers would deny their employes the right to organize.

JANITORS UNITE

Vancouver, Canada, Oct. 8.—Janitors have organized and are chartered by the Building Service Employes' International Union, affiliated to the A. F. of L. Many of these janitors have been forced to work 12 and 13 hours a day seven days a week. Wages are as low as $70 a month.

VOLUNTEER WORKERS UNIONIZE 200 SHOPS

New York, Oct. 8.—More than 200 shops have been unionized within eight weeks through voluntary effort by members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

This movement, directed by officers of the union, is an answer to trade patriots who claim "it can't be done."

Many large employers are sympathetic to the organizing campaign, which is intended to standardize work conditions and oust the sweatshop that was installed in this industry by the Communists during their control of the recent strike.

COAL MINERS' STRIKES ENDED IN TWO STATES

Chicago, Oct. 8.—The six-months' strike in the coal fields of Illinois and Iowa has ended. The adjustment was first made in Illinois where coal owners and miners agreed to the creation of a joint committee which will work out a satisfactory settlement. This plan was later accepted in Iowa.

These strikes were a part of the nation-wide strike that started on April 1, following a failure of Central Competitive Field coal owners and miners to reach an agreement at Miami, last February. The owners demanded wage reductions, some of them insisting that wages be based on the non-union fields of West Virginia and Kentucky.

The Central Competitive Field consists of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and western Pennsylvania. Rates in other sections are based on this field.

The settlement in Illinois is the first time in many years that one State in the Central Competitive Field made a separate agreement.

PRIVACY IS IGNORED IN SEARCH FOR CRIME

Washington, Oct. 8.—In the tapping of private telephone wires by prohibition agents to get evidence a violation of the Fourth and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution?

This question will be passed upon by the United States Supreme Court, which has convened after its summer recess.

Both the District and the Appeals Court upheld the right of the dry agents to tap the wires, though Judge Frank H. Rudkin of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals said invasion of the privacy of the individual would "create a deplorable and intolerable" situation.

"Must the millions who use the telephones every day for lawful purposes have their messages intercepted in this way?" his opinion said. "Must their personal, private and confidential communications to family, friends and business associates, pass through any such scrutiny on the part of officials whose selection they have no choice and for the faithful performance of whose duties they have no scrutiny?"

In the case in point indictments were secured by half a dozen prohibition agents in Seattle, who tapped wires in an office building.

For several months the agents listened in on the private wires and made longhand transcriptions or notes of what they heard. These notes were then typed, revised and retyped. Counsel for the indicted men objected to the admission of this revised testimony. They asked the production of the carefully edited testimony and permitted dry agents, on the witness stand, to read from it.

Judge Rudkin said that "a better opportunity to color or fabricate testimony could not well be devised by the wit of man."

EIGHT-HOUR STATUTE "WORKING SMOOTHLY"

Vancouver, Canada, Oct. 8.—The eight-hour law in the province of British Columbia is working smoothly, the minimum wage of 40 cents an hour for lumber workers, under the male minimum wage act, did not bring about any "serious business depression," says the Department of Labor in its annual report.

The statute was opposed by employment interests, who raised the familiar cry that business would be ruined.

BAKERS' UNION ENJOINED

New York, Oct. 8.—Supreme Court Justice Strong has enjoined Bakers' Union No. 500 from advertising that the Winthrop Baking Company does not sell union-made bread.

COMPANY "UNION" IS HELPLESS TO SET STANDARDS FOR LABOR

Los Angeles, Oct. 8.—"Because of its isolation, the company 'union' can not be a standard-making force," says the A. F. of L. Executive Council in its annual report.

"To have the authority or capacity to establish standards for a group necessitates independence of thought and action, guided by social vision. These qualities the company 'union' does not possess. It is an agency for administering the affairs of the company and is not economic and social force.

"Company 'unions' do not sponsor great moral or social issues; they do not participate in community or national affairs; they do not participate in fundamental decisions in their own industry affecting workers; they do not participate on an equal footing in the decisions concerning them within their own company; they do not venture to give management the benefit of their own work experiences which are invaluable in establishing sound procedure and in knowing when and how changes are necessary.

"Those organizations which have organized company 'unions' are spending considerable sums of money on employe representation and welfare work. In addition to these inducements they add group insurance, old age pensions and employe stock ownership plans. Obviously, the purpose of these corporations is to control and influence the worker so that he will be bound to his position. In binding him in this way he is compelled to forego the exercise of fundamental rights.

This is the price the workers must pay for the paternal care which corporations exercise over them. Through these welfare plans are called upon to surrender certain fundamental rights, such as freedom of decision and action. Such a policy is contrary to public welfare and to the advancement of individual interest.

The question at issue here is not one that should be decided by conflict —unless employers force that course. It is a serious problem that must be met by individual unions as well as the labor movement as a whole."

STEREOTYPERS GAIN

Ottawa, Canada, Oct. 8.—Stereotypers employed on local newspapers have raised wages $4 a week.

LABOR'S PARLIAMENT CONVENES GOVERNOR WELCOMES UNIONISTS

Los Angeles, Oct. 8.—The forty-seventh annual convention of the A. F. of L. opened in this city in an inspiring setting. The delegates marched to the convention hall through gaily colored streets and the city council adjourned to attend in a body. Governor Young journeyed from Sacramento to welcome the delegates in a speech that brought his auditors to their feet again and again. His sentiments were echoed by Lieutenant Governor Fitts and William D. Bunnell, acting mayor. The churches were represented by Rev. Dr. E. P. Ryland, secretary of the Los Angeles Federation of Churches.

Replying to the cordial welcomes, President Green made a forceful explanation and defense of organized labor's purposes. He said the use of the injunction in labor disputes sets government by law aside and places wage workers apart from other groups of citizens whose legal rights under government by law are never questioned. He said the trade union movement would continue its opposition to child labor, and would not be satisfied until every child in this country has a square deal.

President Green declared that organized labor's high wage policy is the cornerstone of the nation's prosperity and that this policy has been vindicated by many corporations which have adopted it.

The report of the A. F. of L. executive council is a record of "an institution which constitutes one of the determining factors in life and in the civilization of the North American continent."

The outstanding achievements listed are progress toward mutual understanding, jurisdictional adjustments, progress toward the five-day week, maintenance of union wage standards, and progress in educational and research work.

The council reports that the Communists have been defeated in their attempt to secure control of the trade unions.

"We believe there can be no compromise with Communists, because their purpose is the destruction of trade unions and the inculcation of class-war sentiment," it is stated.

Progress is reported in the organization campaign of automobile and other industries and unionists are urged to greater activity in the nonpartisan political field, preparatory to next year's campaign.

The executive council reaffirms its adherence to the eighteenth amendment and its former advocacy of amending the Volstead act so that the manufacture and sale of wholesome beer is permitted.

The injunction, child labor and other legislative subjects are treated at length. The injunction is declared to inflict "intolerable burdens" upon workers.

Attention is called to unfair propaganda against the Federal Child Labor amendment, and prediction is made that this proposal will eventually be a part of the nation's organic act "notwithstanding the great opposition by those who would exploit the children of our nation."

Unions Quit Board Of Awards; Pledge Ignored By Employers

Los Angeles, Oct. 8.—The Building Trades Departmnet, A. F. of L., has withdrawn from the National Board for Jurisdictional Awards in the Building Industry. The unionists declare they were the only ones who "made any sincere attempt to comply with the provisions of the agreement."

The Brotherhood of Carpenters has reaffiliated with the Building Trades Department.

William J. Spencer was elected secretary-treasurer of the department.

The above are features of the most successful convention the Building Trades Department ever held.

The National Board for Jurisdictional Awards was organized in 1919. It consisted of eight members with the following affiliations: American Engineering Council, one member; American Institute of Architects, one member; Associated General Contractors of America, two members; National Association of Building Trades Employers, one member, and Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., three members. Chairman was Rudolph P. Miller of the American Engineering Council.

The Brotherhood of Carpenters was the first to object to the board's decisions. The Bricklayers' International Union also recorded their official assent, and later, James P. Noonan, president of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, resigned as a member of the board.

The election of William J. Spencer means a return of that trade unionist to a position he held from the establishment of the department in 1908 until 1919. Frank J. El Paso, when he declined to be a candidate. William J. Tracy was elected. He died in July, this year.

AMBULANCE CHASERS SCORED BY MINISTER

New York, Oct. 8.—High-priced undertakers and ambulance chasers were denounced by Rev. C. Everett Wagner, Episcopal clergyman, in a sermon on "Sharks" in this city.

"Ambulance chasers who work on the basis of 50-50 are among the most unscrupulous enemies of unfortunate injured people," said Dr. Wagner.

"Another shark that preys upon poor people in time of trouble is the outrageously high-priced undertaker who does everything in his power to have his bill equal the insurance policy or to keep the family in debt to him for four years. These hold-up undertakers are just as bad as the ambulance chasers.

"Conditions can be greatly improved if the respective businesses get rid of their sharks."

JOHN DALZELL PASSES

Washington, Oct. 8.—The death at Los Angeles of John Dalzell, former Congressman from Pennsylvania and known as "father of the House," recalls the nation-wide fight against "Cannonism" 15 years ago.

Joe Cannon was speaker at the time. He, together with Dalzell, Dingley of Maine and Payne of New York ruled with an iron hand. Organized labor joined in the fight against "Cannonism" and the rule of his colleagues was swept from power in 1912. Since then Dalzell has lived a quiet life. He was a forceful orator, a skilled parliamentarian and an able political organizer.

FAKE "UNION" FAILS TO AID COAL MINERS

Denver, Oct. 8.—Alarmed at growing unrest of employes, the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company has raised wages. These rates are still below the organized fields of other states.

Colorado Fuel and Iron maintains a company "union." It was the first in this country and followed the long strike of 1913-14 that culminated in the Ludlow tragedy when gunmen wearing the uniform of the Colorado militia shot up the Ludlow tent colony. Thirty-three men, women and children losts their lives.

John D. Rockefeller, jr., then announced a new system of employe representation, and the company "union" was established.

This system has failed to redress grievances and unrest has increased. The A. F. of L. says it has taken advantage of the situation, but this element are not disturbed by the management. The I. W. W. are permitted to circulate through the camps, but the members of the United Mine Workers are not.

More than $20,000,000 has been lost to Colorado miners during the past few years. Wages have been cut at every opportunity and the public is called upon to pay higher prices for coal while the company "union" is glorified.

LABOR'S ALIEN POLICY FAVORED IN CANADA

Toronto, Canada, Oct. 8.—Organized labor's immigration policy was indorsed by Premier Ferguson of Ontario when he told visiting British editors that Canada needed a national immigration policy and indicated the present Dominion policy which permits transportation interests to bring in large numbers of immigrants without regard to conditions.

AUTO KILLINGS GROW

Washington, Oct. 8.—Deaths by automobiles are increasing at the rate of 2,000 a year, according to the American Road Builders' Association. The average killings, the past five years, was 20,000 a year.

The largest number of accidents occur between 5 and 6 in the afternoon, when workers are hurrying to their homes. Less than 5 per cent of all accidents are the result of faulty mechanism or improperly designed roads or streets. The human machine is responsible for the remaining 95 per cent of the accident total, it is said.

More than 7,000 school children, the majority between the ages of 5 and 13 years, are killed annually in traffic accidents because they have not fully developed the ability to judge speed and distance.